

# Brookhaven Quality of Life Task Force Investigation Leads to Arrests for Murder, Drugs & Gambling in Rocky Point

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**ROCKY POINT, NY** - A search warrant executed by the Brookhaven Quality of Life Task Force for an illegal basement occupancy in a Rocky Point deli resulted in the arrest of three men - including a fugitive wanted for murder in Texas - on drug and gambling charges.

Brookhaven Law Department Investigators, Building Inspectors and Fire Marshals executed the warrant at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the Ramirez Deli, located at 53 Broadway in Rocky Point, regarding suspected illegal occupancy of the basement of the building. While observing the building prior to the execution of the warrant, one of the Town investigators observed a man outside the deli with what appeared to be marijuana, and informed a Suffolk County police officer who was there to assist in the execution of the warrant. That individual was later found to be wanted for murder in Texas.

"Thanks to our Quality of Life Task Force, a murderer is off the streets in Rocky Point, and an apparent drug and gambling den closed down," said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "Our goal was to protect the health and safety of the businesses and people in this community by closing this building that was riddled with code and fire violations. The results of last night's action far exceeded our expectations."

Once inside the building, Town officials found a dice table, gambling, alcohol, drugs and a large amount of cash - in addition to numerous building and fire code violations. Ramon Rodriguez, the owner of the deli, was issued 14 appearance tickets by Town law investigators and Fire Marshals, and building inspectors cited numerous additional NYS building code violations. The Town Fire Marshal issued a "Cease and Desist" order, closing the business until the fire code violations were corrected and inspected.

"The community has for some time expressed concern about illegal activity taking place at Ramirez Deli. I have worked together with numerous agencies since my days as civic president to have this place shut down and today I am proud to say that we have succeeded for the benefit of our community," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "I appreciate the efforts of the police department, our town attorneys, law investigators, building inspectors and fire marshals for their hard work and removing this vice from downtown Rocky Point. The community, the county and the Town working together have taken the first step to a better Broadway."

Investigators issued 14 misdemeanor summonses to Rodriguez, owner of Delicatessen and Deli Monumental Corp. 53 Broadway Rocky Point for no building permits for the interior alterations of Deli area, the alteration and occupancy of the second room attached to Deli and the illegal occupancy of basement area and eight fire code violations (see below). Summonses will be issued to the owner of property, James Blakeney, residing at 3539 N. Prospectors Rd. Apache Junction, AZ. 85219

Suffolk County Police Seventh Precinct Crime Section and Community Oriented Police Enforcement (COPE) officers arrested three men at the deli. Ramon Rodriguez, 46, of 520 Jayne Blvd., Port Jefferson Station, was charged with Promoting Gambling Second Degree and Possession of a Gambling Device. Rafael Torres, 43, of 4 Ardmer Drive, Port Jefferson Station, was charged with Obstructing Governmental Administration Second Degree. Rodolfo Morales, 27, of 425 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson, was charged with Forgery Second Degree and Criminal Possession of Marijuana Fifth Degree. Morales, who is wanted for murder in Texas, is being held at the Seventh Precinct and will be arraigned at First District Court on September 26, 2009, according to police.

## Fire Code Violations:

- 30-9D-dangerous of Hazardous Condition, grease building up in kitchen hood system.
- 30-31 - Maintenance of equipment, suppression system.
- 30-31 - Maintenance of equipment, fire alarm system.
- 30-31 - Maintenance of equipment, fire extinguisher.
- 30-11H - Altering building w/o permit.
- 30-18 - Occupying w/o certificate of occupancy.
- 30-66 - Failure to illuminate exits.

- 30-119A - Operating a place of assembly w/o permit.

Building Code Violations:

- Holes in Ceiling between Deli and Second floor dwelling unit. SPM 703.1
- Finished basement, no egress. SPM 702.1
- Main electrical panel missing breakers, broken outlets in public area, extension cords used in basement. SPM 604.3
- Improper drain in basement. SPM 504.1
- No ventilation in toilets. SPM 403.1
- No ventilation in basement. SPM 403.1
- Exterior basement entry steps broken. SPM 304.10
- No hand rails on steps. SPM 304.12
- Chimney in rear too close to air handler. SPM 304.11

The Building Inspector also issued a 72-hour notice to repair to be followed by a notice before summonses in the allowance to issue the State Code violations.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Town Council**

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